



# COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 22, 2023

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Harvest of several crops advanced quickly last week due to nearly ideal conditions, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) data, the entire State remained dry last week and no measurable precipitation was received. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on October 19, drought conditions remained prevalent in western and southwestern counties and continued to spread last week. Over 19 percent of the State was experiencing abnormally dry conditions, and 16 percent of the State was rated in moderate drought. Over four percent of the State was rated in severe drought, unchanged from to last week. According to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, average temperatures were above normal across the State last week, with eastern counties 6 degrees to over 9 degrees above average and some northern localities more than 12 degrees above average. Northeastern and east central county reports noted harvest of spring crops made good progress last week amid dry conditions. Livestock producers continued selling and shipping calves. In the San Luis Valley, alfalfa hay harvest was complete and many producers were finished with potato harvest by week's end. Livestock remained in good condition and forage quality in pastures was reported as normal for the time of year, but conditions remained dry. Hay supplies were notably shorter than normal in the area.

Fourth cutting of alfalfa advanced last week with 79 percent harvested, ahead of the 5-year average of 73 percent. Corn harvested for grain progressed well last week, with 45 percent of the acreage harvested, compared to the 5-year average of 47 percent. Sugarbeet harvest also advanced and 75 percent of the crop was harvested. Harvest of the sunflower crop progressed ahead of the previous year and 5-year average, with 60 percent of the acreage harvested. Potato harvest in the San Luis Valley was nearly complete with 96 percent of the acreage harvested. Stored feed supplies were rated 3 percent very short, 8 percent short, 80 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 54 percent average, and 45 percent light. Sheep death loss was 1 percent heavy, 90 percent average, and 9 percent light.

### CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
4 <sup>th</sup> cutting harvested .....	79	65	69	73
Corn				
Mature .....	95	83	97	96
Harvested for grain .....	45	33	31	47
Dry edible beans				
Harvested .....	86	78	94	NA
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Harvested .....	96	90	94	NA
Proso millet				
Harvested .....	94	89	NA	NA
Sorghum				
Mature .....	99	93	85	93
Harvested for grain .....	44	23	46	48
Sugarbeets				
Harvested .....	75	63	48	65
Sunflowers				
Harvested .....	60	34	26	44
Winter wheat				
Planted .....	96	94	97	96
Emerging .....	70	59	64	71

NA – not available  
(-) – zero

### DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork .....	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	21	15	32	27
Short .....	33	41	45	36
Adequate .....	44	42	22	36
Surplus .....	2	2	1	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short .....	15	7	36	27
Short .....	21	26	37	35
Adequate .....	63	64	26	37
Surplus .....	1	3	1	1

NA – not available  
(-) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
<b>Corn</b>				
Very poor.....	5	3	18	NA
Poor .....	12	7	22	NA
Fair.....	26	31	35	NA
Good .....	40	47	23	NA
Excellent.....	17	12	2	NA
<b>Pasture and range</b>				
Very poor.....	5	4	13	21
Poor .....	7	5	23	23
Fair.....	20	25	27	24
Good .....	55	55	33	28
Excellent.....	13	11	4	4
<b>Sorghum</b>				
Very poor.....	1	1	5	NA
Poor .....	3	1	12	NA
Fair.....	14	13	38	NA
Good .....	75	77	36	NA
Excellent.....	7	8	9	NA
<b>Sunflower</b>				
Very poor.....	1	--	11	NA
Poor .....	3	2	18	NA
Fair.....	23	29	44	NA
Good .....	70	64	26	NA
Excellent.....	3	5	1	NA
<b>Winter wheat</b>				
Very poor.....	1	NA	16	8
Poor .....	6	NA	19	14
Fair.....	30	NA	40	34
Good .....	57	NA	24	37
Excellent.....	6	NA	1	7
<b>Livestock</b>				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	2
Poor .....	2	1	3	4
Fair.....	6	7	9	20
Good .....	77	82	63	60
Excellent.....	14	9	25	14

NA – not available

(--) – zero